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INL Scholastic Tournament state championship begins Monday

Brainy students representing 28 Idaho high schools are converging in Boise for the Idaho National Laboratory Scholastic Tournament state championship. They'll compete for a spot in the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl April 28 in Washington, D.C.

For two decades, INL has sponsored the state tournament, which is the largest of the regional Science Bowl contests held every year across the U.S. and Virgin Islands. This year, 750 students representing 69 Idaho high schools participated in regional competitions that took place over the past five weeks.

The 28 victorious schools, competing in three different divisions determined by enrollment, will match wits March 21-22. Competition on Tuesday will be at Boise State University's Student Union Building and will begin around 1:30 p.m. BSU Professor, Dr. Amy Moll will give the keynote address at Monday's luncheon.

The final championship rounds will be on Tuesday in IPTV's Boise studio, where one team from each division will be crowned. IPTV will videotape these final three matches, and Idaho Public Television will broadcast them on Saturday, March 26.

The competition entails round-robin and consolation format tournaments. Teams consist of as many as 10 members, with eight competing at a given time. The quick question-and-answer event awards points to teams quickest to buzz in and answer the most questions correctly.

INL Scholastic Tournament receives financial support from Micron Foundation, Westmark Credit Union and Idaho Power.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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